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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2000, at 10 am.

Senate

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God who is for us and not against us, who recruits us for the battle of what is right and just, and who empowers us to seek the truth and speak it with love, our central purpose is to glorify You by serving our Nation.

Renew a sense of chosenness in the women and men of this Senate. Remind them that You have chosen them; they are here by Your choice. Revive in them a sense of divine calling. Reclaim for them the dignity of the high calling of politics. Rekindle their fires of patriotic passion. Give them a perfect blend of resoluteness and intentionality. Our times demand greatness, the greatness that comes from listening to You so intently that we can speak the truth with intrepid boldness and courage. In the midst of the two-party system, help the Senators to affirm their oneness as Americans and keep a strong spirit of unity in the struggle for what is best for our Nation. You alone are the one who can draw them beyond secondary loyalties to their ultimate loyalty to You and help them work together in civility and respect. Thank You for calling these men and women and helping them choose to be chosen. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The Senator from Maine.

SCHEDULE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. so the weekly party caucuses may meet. Upon reconvening, the Senate will begin consideration of the nominations of Marsha Berzon and Richard Paez to be the U.S. circuit judges for the Ninth Circuit.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I now ask unanimous consent that the debate time between 2:15 p.m. and 5 p.m. be equally divided between the proponents and the opponents of the Berzon and Paez nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, by previous consent, at 5 p.m. the Senate will proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the Executive Calendar No. 423, the nomination of Julio Fuentes. Senators can therefore expect the first vote to occur at 5 p.m. today. I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2194 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

THE RECORD OF JUDGE RICHARD PAEZ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wanted to speak a little earlier, but I didn't have the opportunity. The minority is very happy that we are going to move forward on some judicial nominations. One of the nominations holds a record. It is a record that Judge Paez has. He has been waiting more than 4 years to have the Senate decide whether or not he can be elevated to the Ninth Circuit. We feel Judge Paez is eminently qualified. I think we will find that a majority of the majority will also feel that way.

Here is a man whose record is unsurpassed. He is a person who has been said to be—these are different quotes—"a well-respected, experienced judge."

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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